

**U.S. Department of Education - EDCAPS
G5-Technical Review Form (New)**

Status: Submitted

Last Updated: 10/14/11 12:00 AM

Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (U411C110293)

Reader #2: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	17
Sub Total	20	17
Total	20	17

Technical Review Form

Panel #8 - 84.411C Tier 2 Panel - 8: 84.411C

Reader #2: *****

Applicant: Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (U411C110293)

Questions

Selection Criteria - Quality of the Project Evaluation

1. The Secretary considers the quality of the project evaluation. In determining the quality of the project evaluation to be conducted, the Secretary considers the following factors:
 - (1) The extent to which the methods of evaluation will provide high-quality implementation data and performance feedback, and permit periodic assessment of progress toward achieving intended outcomes.
 - (2) The extent to which the evaluation will provide sufficient information about the key elements and approach of the project to facilitate further development, replication, or testing in other settings.
 - (3) The extent to which the proposed project plan includes sufficient resources to carry out the project evaluation effectively.

Note: We encourage eligible applicants to review the following technical assistance resources on evaluation

- (1) What Works Clearinghouse Procedures and Standards Handbook and
- (2) IES/ NCEE Technical Methods papers.

Strengths:

This evaluation design proposes both formative and summative components that assess implementation and students' knowledge of future careers and learning. The impact goals include increased student achievement and graduation rates, and reduced dropout rates, and the plan differentiates impact on special subgroups (e.g., ELL students, special education, etc.). The design anticipates collecting student and staff data through surveys, case studies, and extant administrative and assessment data, and commits to providing interim analyses and briefings. Kentucky has been a strong data collection state for many years, so the evaluators are likely to be able to obtain reliable data from the SEA for carrying out an effective and accurate evaluation. Appropriately, the design proposes to use varied exploratory statistical procedures to analyze and monitor implementation. Analyses of student outcome data will occur in the latter phases of the project. Propensity weighting enables comparison of impacts on both treatment and control groups. A reasonable budget for the evaluation anticipates that adequate resources will be available to conduct the evaluation as planned (p. 18).

Weaknesses:

The evaluation proposal covers the key elements of a solid evaluation design at a high level. However, the sample sizes are not detailed and more information is needed about how analyses will consider various populations (special education and LEP, low and higher achievers, etc.) and subject attrition. It is also not clear how the evaluation will include non-participating schools in the qualitative elements of the evaluation. Finally, the letter of commitment from the evaluator, a project collaborator, offers in-kind evaluation services, but there is no defined evaluation budget.

Reader's Score: 17

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Technical Review Coversheet

Applicant: Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (U411C110293)

Reader #1: *****

	Points Possible	Points Scored
Questions		
Selection Criteria		
Quality of the Project Evaluation		
1. Project Evaluation	20	16
Sub Total	20	16
Total	20	16

Technical Review Form

Panel #8 - 84.411C Tier 2 Panel - 8: 84.411C

Reader #1: *****

Applicant: Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative (U411C110293)

Questions

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Strengths:

Clearly defined objectives and outcomes of the projects are presented by categorizing areas of focus.

Data collection methods are well planned to meet the objectives of the project. Moreover, the data collection methods and objectives are well considered.

The team presents the plan to collect data on the baseline measures and the anticipated outcome to meet the goals of the project, providing the reader with clear expectation.

The evaluators seem capable of conducting the multiple evaluations that the research team included in the project.

Weaknesses:

The evaluation team presents multiple plans covering both quantitative and qualitative techniques. However, there is not enough information on the expected number of interviews, observations, survey respondents, and case studies

Although the overall evaluation plan for the project seems sound, the project does not have enough specifics for each evaluation plan such as instruments, procedures, and locations for data collection.

Reader's Score: 16

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